

REMARKS

The second, non-final Office action mailed on 13 July 2004 (Paper No. 7092004) has been carefully considered.

Claims 5, 6, 9 thru 11, 13 thru 15, 17, 25 and 26 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 are being amended, and claims 27 and 28 are being added. Thus, claims 1 thru 4, 7, 8, 16, 18, 20 thru 24, 27 and 28 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 1 of the Office action, the Examiner states that claims 7 and 8 remain withdrawn from consideration.

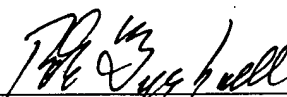
In paragraph 4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Low *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,276,300. In paragraph 5 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 5, 14, 15 and 21 thru 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Low *et al.* '300 in view of Akazawa *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,237,140. In paragraph 6 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20, 25 and 26 for dependency upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claim 1 is being amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 5 and allowable dependent claim 6; claim 16 is being amended to include the recitation of allowable dependent claim 17; allowable dependent claim 20 is being rewritten in independent form; and claim 23 is being amended to include the recitation of allowable dependent claim 26. Thus, independent claims 1, 16, 20 and 23, and associated dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

Folio: P56560
Date: 10/6/04
I.D.: REB/JGS